

814 Republic. In 1935 a Pension Fund for Estonian
[745] writers, artists, musicians and actors was es-
tablished, financed by ten per cent of the total
annual Culture Fund budget.¹ The result of
these funds was to give a much-needed security
to creative workers, for in a small state writers
and artists could not well depend on their royal-
ties.

- 563 With the law of the Culture Autonomy (bills
passed in Riigikogu in 1925 and 1931) Estonia
established good relations with her minorities.
This law has been praised as one of the most
successful solutions of the minority problems
in the whole world.

000 The situation at the end of Estonian indepen-
dence gave full evidence to the fact that the young
Republic had successfully come out of her child-
hood diseases and was looking forward to a happy
2[see cat. 116, pp. 55 - -56- Analyst]

369
166

created a strong demand for workers. By this time Estonia had already progressed from a feudalistic country to a capitalistic one. Dr. E. Kant has traced the population in rural Estonia during the period 1922-34 and has noticed that internal migration within Estonia has been far from uniform; the highland regions, for example, were depopulated far more rapidly than the lower areas. One exception, however, to this trend was the southeastern corner of Estonia (Petserimaa) with its high percentage of Russians. Here the density of the rural population was steadily increasing. Although one cannot speak of any real overpopulation in Estonia, the density in the highlands has always been greater, and it is natural that these areas have given their surplus population to the cities.

In spite of all this urbanization, Estonia was

162 80-89	0.8	1.2	1.0
90-99	0.0	0.1	0.1

163 The Estonian birth rate has never been high.

165

The 1930-34 average was 16.8 per mille. At the same time, the death rate averaged 14.9 per mille, leaving a natural increase of 1.9 per mille. This median death rate was higher than the average among other people with the same birth rate. In earlier years (in the last decade of the nineteenth century, for example) the birth rate of the Estonians has been considerably higher--

[563] 29.9 per mille. The birth rate among the

Russian minority was 7 to 8 per cent higher than that for the Estonian population, but the Estonian German and Jewish populations had higher death rates than birth rates.

165 Before Estonian independence the infant

165 mortality rate was extremely high, but during the years of independence it dropped, as a result of the better medical care available for infants and mothers. The death rate dropped also in the age group of 10-19, but it still remained high in the age group of 1-9.

162 The overwhelming majority of the population
563
● of Estonia in 1934 were Estonian--88.2 per cent, or almost one million people. Until World War II the minorities in Estonia ranked as follows:

Russians.....	8.2 per cent
Germans.....	1.5 per cent
Swedes.....	0.7 per cent
Latvians.....	0.5 per cent
Others (Jews, etc.).....	0.9 per cent

From prehistoric times Estonians have had

563 From prehistoric times Estonians have had ✓
Slavic peoples as their Eastern neighbors. The
Russian minority in 1934 lived in the eastern
part of the counties Virumaa, Tartumaa,
Võrumaa and Setumaa; 71 per cent of them were
rural while 29 per cent were rated city dwellers.
The inhabitants of the county Setumaa, who are
called Setus, are Estonian by descent, although
their language shows considerable Russian in-
fluence. Russian ethnographers, however, who
tend to see Russian or Slavic features wherever
possible, argue that the question of the Setu
nationality has not yet been satisfactorily settled.
The Estonian Germans were mostly descendants
of Germans who came into the Baltic region as
conquerors and crusaders at the beginning of the
thirteenth century and later. (For more details
see Subparagraph lb. ¹/₂ Before Estonian independ-
ence, a considerable number of Germans lived
¹/₂ [see cat. 116, pp. 10 f. f. ⁸²- -- Analyst]

● 563 as the gentry in estates spread all over the

[423] country. After the land reform in the twenties, the estates were nationalized and the land redistributed to landless people (war veterans, etc.), leaving to the former great landowners only the cores of their former vast possessions. Many of the former owners refused to accept what remained to them of their estates and migrated to Estonian cities or even to Germany, receiving reasonable compensation for their land from the Estonian government.

Approximately 84 per cent of the Estonian Germans during the period of Estonian independence were city dwellers. The Swedish minority was generally concentrated on the northeastern islands of Ruhnu, Vormsi and Pakri, as well as [167] on Noarootsi, Riguldi, Nõva and Naissaar. In the turbulent days from 1939 to 1941, almost all

563 of the Estonian Germans migrated to Germany
167 and in 1944, before the second Russian occupa-
tion, the Swedish population of Estonia left en
masse for Sweden.

727 During World War II the population of Estonia
661 suffered great losses. During the first occupa-
tion of Estonia by the Soviet Union in 1940-41,
especially in June 1941, a mass deportation of
over 10,000 Estonians took place to remote
territories of the Soviet Union. In addition to
these losses, the Soviet officials, when with-
drawing their military forces from Estonia (in
June-September, 1941) before the advancement
of the German army, mobilized over 33,000 men,
among them many regulars in the Estonian army,
and took them to Russia. The approximate
number of Estonian citizens deported, mobilized,
arrested and murdered by Soviet officials during

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1f,

Sociological Background

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

565 The Republic of Estonia always impressed her
555 foreign visitors as being an almost classless
country. Although this was not strictly true,
the class lines which did exist were not rigid
and there were extensive possibilities for ver-
tical mobility within the society. Creative and
educational abilities determined social status
to a greater extent than did financial well-being.

● 563 After the big estates belonging to the German
gentry and a few wealthy Estonians were redis-
tributed among the landless people, the German
landholders returned to Germany or else settled
down in Estonian cities. Very few of the estate
owners remained in the country, and the few
who remained did so because they had been

563 permitted to keep their land by reason of their special virtues in agricultural production. The Germans in cities (burghers) were engaged in business, industry or cultural enterprises. With the exception of a very few, they were not wealthy during the Estonian independence period, and many of them made their livelihood renting rooms, doing private tutoring, or selling their former goods from the "good old times." Actually, there were two classes among the Germans, the nobles and the burghers, but these two closed their ranks and united for purposes of self-preservation. This German class, having lost its ruling position in Estonia, did not mingle with the other inhabitants of the country and remained quite isolated despite the fact that almost all of them had mastered satisfactorily the Estonian and Russian languages.

563A. H. Tammsaare has described the class pride of the Balts in his novel I Loved a German. The younger German generation in Estonia was more liberal and less culture-bound, and it is quite possible that in a few years the division between the German minority and the Estonians would have become much less sharp. Since World War II was equally tragic to the Estonians and to the Baltic Germans--both of them lost their homes and their country--there is a stronger bond now between the Estonian and Baltic German refugees and they are friendlier than they have ever been.

565 Estonian society during independence could be roughly divided into three classes, each of which could be further subdivided: 1) a very small upper class, comprising the highest government and military officials and the established

871
563

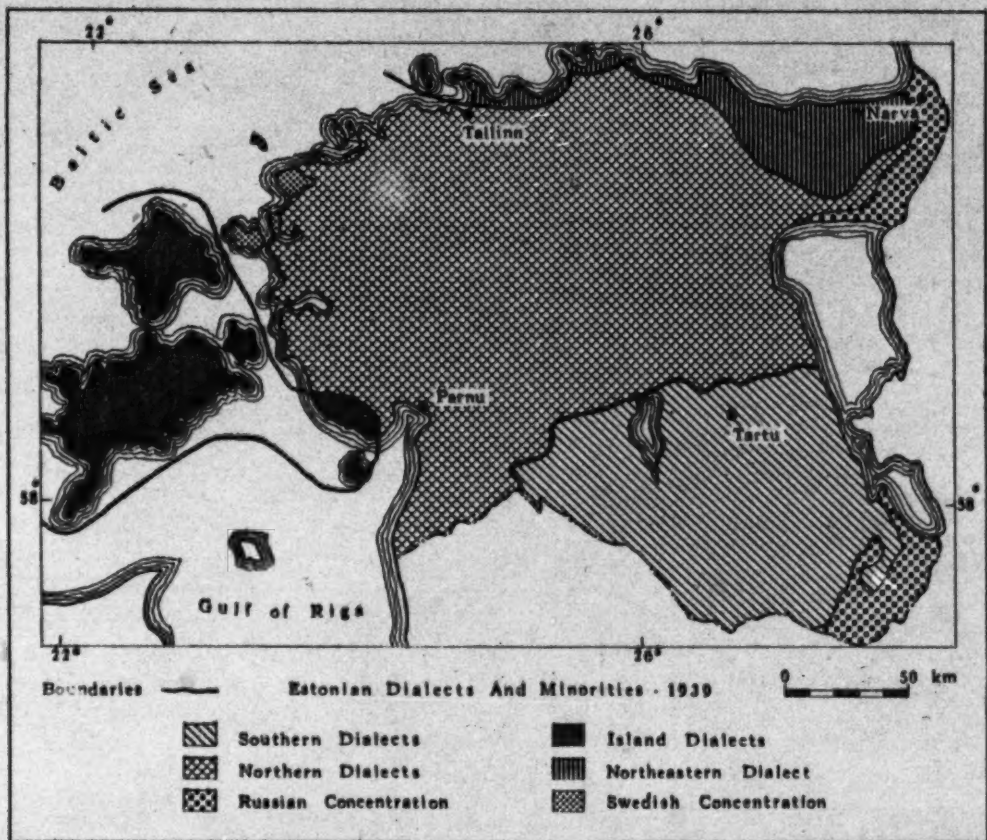
Instruction in the public schools was given in Estonian. By special law, permission was granted for the establishment of schools in which instruction was provided in the language of certain minority groups--German, Russian, Swedish, Jewish--Estonian being taught as the first foreign language.

872 The curriculum of the 6-grade elementary school was the same in both urban and rural areas, the following subjects being taught: religion, Estonian, natural science, hygiene, geography, history, civics, art, manual instruction, physical education, and penmanship. In addition to these subjects, the elementary schools were free to select one foreign language for their curriculum: English, German, Russian or French, the first two being the most commonly taught.

186 How much real support the Communists are able to claim from the Estonian population is, of course, uncertain, but it is certainly true that the majority of the Estonians long for liberation from the Communists. The Russian minority in Estonia supports the present regime to a much greater extent than the Estonians themselves do, but how much it is difficult to say. Refugees report that the Estonians avoid as much as possible any contact with the Russians.

Communism is essentially alien to the Estonian. Great individualists, they have long been proud of their country and of the progress that it was making before the last war. For two centuries under czarist rule the Estonians had maintained their national culture and their non-Slav traditions, so that when the foundations of their Western culture were collapsed beneath

197
563



167 later also to America. Some of them emigrated to Sweden. There has been a special kind of emigration, which has lasted up to the present day, namely the leaving of the seacoast by the educated Livonians. Almost none of the educated Livonians who have been able to get white collar jobs in Latvian towns have returned to their native area. Even the one Livonian who received a university education, a man educated at Helsinki University at the Finns' expense, in the hope that he would become a pastor for his fellow-countrymen, preferred to remain in Finland.

167 The majority of the immigrants to the
563 Livonians' area have been Latvians who, since the middle of the last century, have been settling in the Livonian villages in growing numbers. Among the immigrants were also numerous Estonians from Saaremaa. The latter used to come as seasonal immigrants for summer work on the farms as farmhands, fishermen and workers in the anchovy factory in Kuolka. Scores of children from Saaremaa were employed as herdsmen on the Livonian shore. Some of the Estonians never returned to Saaremaa, but stayed as permanent immigrants among the Livonians and mingled with them. After Latvia became independent, the close connections between the Livonians and Estonians from Saaremaa were prohibited. Thus the migration came to an end.

[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

641
661 The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

Art. 91. The citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to rest and leisure.

[1466] The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the establishment of an eight-hour day for the overwhelming majority of workers, by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers, and by the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest homes and clubs for the accommodation of working people.

641
[651] Art. 92. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense, free medical services for working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

[871] Art. 93. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to education. This right is ensured by universal and compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including higher education; by a system of state stipends for the overwhelming majority of students of higher educational institutions; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language, and by the organization in the factories, state farms, and machine and tractor stations of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

[521] Art. 94. Women in the Estonian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, by state protection of the interests of mother and child, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

• [523] Art. 95. Equality of rights of citizens of the Estonian SSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity, is an inalienable law.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law.

[659] Art. 96. In order to ensure the citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the Estonian SSR is separated from the state, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.

[Estonian Constitution 23 of November, 1947]

12

693 Art. 78. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

692 Art. 79. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Estonian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Estonian SSR.

646 Art. 80. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 81. District Courts are elected by the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies for a term of five years.

Art. 82. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the cities and villages on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695
• [523] Art. 83. Judicial proceedings in the Estonian SSR are conducted in the Estonian and Russian languages, persons not knowing these languages being guaranteed the opportunity of fully acquainting themselves with the material of the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 84. In all Courts of the Estonian SSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to defence.

693 Art. 85. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 86. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Estonian SSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 87. The Procurator of the Estonian SSR is appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 88. District and city procurators are appointed by the Procurator of the Estonian SSR subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 89. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Chapter VIII. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

641
461 Art. 90. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to work, that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

THE NORTH-WESTERN BORDER

Es. of the new shale mines, shale-refining plants, electric power stations, etc., while increasing the economic potential of the U.S.S.R. as a whole, has perceptibly intensified the manpower problem from which Estonia is suffering as a consequence of the war. Thousands of Estonians fell in action during the hostilities, thousands were deported to the East by Soviet authorities in 1941 and many thousands more fled from their mother-country westward to escape the Soviet régime. The loss of such a considerable number of her inhabitants - many of them able-bodied people in the prime of life - has depleted the already scanty manpower resources of the little country. Hardly a single article on Estonian economy appearing in Soviet publications after the war has omitted to stress that Estonia's exceptional shortage of labour was a handicap for the reconstruction work in that country. This shortcoming has been remedied in the usual way, namely by importing Russian manpower in large enough numbers to fill the gaps created by the voluntary or forced exodus of the Estonians. Russian technical experts, mining engineers and skilled workers are helping to keep the wheels of Estonian economy turning. This applies especially to the 'Estonian Donbass', where can be found coal-miners from the Donets Basin and from the Moscow Province and shale-miners from the distant Volga.³¹

S.U. While Russian colonization of Eastern Estonia is prompted by economic considerations a strategic colonization is simultaneously taking place in Estonia's 'Far West', her islands in the Baltic. The latter are important outposts of the U.S.S.R. as a whole and it is not surprising that the Soviet authorities should have sent there not only soldiers and sailors but also settlers. Thus on the small island of Vormsi, where there had never been a single Russian, there is now a Russian school with seven forms.³² In so far as the islands preserved their Estonian character the Soviet authorities were determined to transform them into particularly reliable communist strongholds. Thus the 'movement' for the collectivization of Estonian agriculture originated under the guidance of a Russian party secretary on the island of Saaremaa (Ösel) where the first 'Kolkhoz' was formed in the autumn of 1947.³³

Es. R64 When Soviet troops occupied Estonia in June 1940 the Estonian Communist Party was extremely small. In Estonia itself it had been decimated by the terror of the 'bourgeois régime', while the ranks of the Estonian communists in Russia had been depleted through Stalin's big purge. In the first half of 1940 small communist organizations existed in Tallin, where the party had between 120 and 150 members, and in other Estonian towns such as Tartu, Narva and Pärnu. In February 1941, over seven months after the establishment of the Soviet régime, the Estonian Communist Party had 2,107 full members and candidate-members which corresponded to 0.2 per cent of the total population of the country.* The newly recruited party members included

* *Sovetskaya Estoniya*, April 7th and 8th, 1951.